

MINUTES
St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Solid Waste Subcommittee
Northland Office Building,
1st Floor Environmental Services Conference Room #118
Virginia, Minnesota
March 28, 2011

Call to Order

Steve Raukar called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

Members Present:

Commissioner Keith Nelson, Commissioner Steve Raukar, and Commissioner Peg Sweeney.

Others Present: Linnea Mersh, St. Louis County Administration; Jim Nephew, St. Louis County Attorney's Office; JoAnne Newman, St. Louis County Auditors Office; Diane Hildreth, Mark St. Lawrence, Terry Soderberg, John Strukel and Ted Troolin, Environmental Services Department.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Sweeney the minutes of the February 28, 2011, Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting were approved as presented.

Director's Update: Troolin handed out a copy of the Director's Report. Items from the Director's report discussed by the group included Department staff are working with Fall Lake and Roaring Stoney Townships to discuss out of area tipping fee options and the possible implementation of service fees in the northern areas of Lake County. Department staff will give a formal presentation at a future SWSC meeting. The Commissioners discussed the Department's current demolition acceptance procedures, on site demolition crushing, and beneficial use of demolition material as a base for County road projects. The Department will bring a formal demolition waste acceptance policy recommendation to the next SWSC meeting.

Other Business:

Pharmaceutical Collection Program: John Strukel gave a PowerPoint presentation and handout on pharmaceutical collection programs. Strukel went over the Department's current disposal options and the goals/challenges associated with the disposal of household pharmaceutical drugs. The Department is exploring options for implementing a disposal program for household pharmaceutical drugs. Strukel discussed existing programs in other Minnesota counties and WLSSD; associated costs of a pharmaceutical collection program; collection options for St. Louis County and the negatives/positives of household pharmaceutical drug programs. A national pharmaceutical collection event will be held on April 30th and the Department is working with the Sheriff's Department to participate in this program. The Department is recommending accepting household pharmaceutical drugs at three mobile household hazardous waste collection events. A Sheriff Deputy would be on site during these collections to take custody of all drugs collected and dispose of the household pharmaceutical drugs collected at the incinerator in Fosston, MN. Future options would be to work with local law enforcement agencies to place permanent household pharmaceutical drug collection drop boxes at secure locations in St. Louis County. The Department anticipates these collections will have a big impact on curbing problems associated with household pharmaceutical drugs in communities throughout St. Louis County. Discussion from the group followed.

2011 – 2020 Financial Planning: Troolin gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Solid Waste Division's long range financial plan. Troolin reviewed the past financial status of the Department, discussed long range issues and fee changes. Troolin provided background information on the three funding mechanisms for the Solid Waste Division: the Enterprise Fund, the Financial Assurance Fund and the 919 Fees Fund. The Enterprise Fund (Fund 600) is the primary funding mechanism for the Department and has a current balance around \$15.9 million. All revenue is generated in St. Louis County from services fees, tipping fees, SCORE monies, recycling, environmental liability, and working capital. There are four funds within the Environmental Services Department: Capital Improvement; Environmental Liability; Landfill Construction/Closure; and Working Capital. The 919 Fees Fund (Fund 615) has a balance of \$550,000 and the Department is restricted on the disbursement of these funds by State law. The 919 Fees Fund has a usage plan in place and the Department intends to use this fund for ongoing staffing costs associated with demolition disposal. One of the Department's goals is to expand the demolition inspection program. This will be added to the agenda of a future SWSC meeting. The Financial Assurance Fund (Fund 610) is required by State Law and can only be used with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approval. Fund 610 is used for closure, post closure and contingency actions and has a balance of \$3 million. The Department is proposing to add \$25,000 per year to the Financial Assurance Fund, to be used for permanent closure of a landfill. Discussion on tipping fee increases, service fee increases, and additional revenue sources followed. Troolin stated that the Department will need to raise fees for the long term financial goals of the Department. Troolin will provide budget numbers with a revised inflation rate, service fees for individual apartments within an apartment complex, and a \$3 tipping fee increase to the Commissioners for a final decision at the next SWSC meeting. The Department will need to submit its final budget to Administration in June.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the morning of Monday, April 25th after the Septic Subcommittee.

Adjourn: Upon motion by Commissioner Sweeney and second by Commissioner Nelson, the meeting was adjourned.